

RAINFALL TOTALS

Chantilly, VA	about 16"
Westminster, MD	14.68"
Woodstock, MD	13.85"
Dulles Airport, VA	13.65"
National Airport	8.16"
Baltimore, MD	6.81"

48-HOUR RAINFALL

(June 21-22, 1972)

Parkton, MD	11.90"
The Plains, VA	11.40"
Wheaton, MD	11.25"
Aberdeen, MD	10.81"

BY THE NUMBERS

For VA, MD, DC, & WV

Fatalities: 34

Homes Destroyed: 305

Families w/Damage: 11000+

Damage (in 1972 dollars):

Virginia - \$222,000,000

Maryland/DC - \$110,000,000

West Virginia - \$18,000,000

MAXIMUM WIND GUSTS

National Airport	49 mph
Dulles Airport	50 mph
Andrews AFB	46 mph
Baltimore, MD	39 mph
Patuxent NAS, MD	43 mph

Hurricane Agnes

June 21-23, 1972

40th Anniversary – 2012

40 years ago, a tropical cyclone – the first in a very slow Atlantic season – formed in the Caribbean Sea and moved toward a landfall in the Florida Panhandle. But its most significant impacts would be felt in the mid-Atlantic and northeast as its large circulation moved northward, re-strengthened, and combined with a second, non-tropical storm.

That tropical cyclone was Agnes, which still stands today as the flood of record in much of the region. It struck on the longest day of the year, and for many, it truly was a long day. On the 40th anniversary of the event, this document recalls the rainfall and flooding Agnes caused.

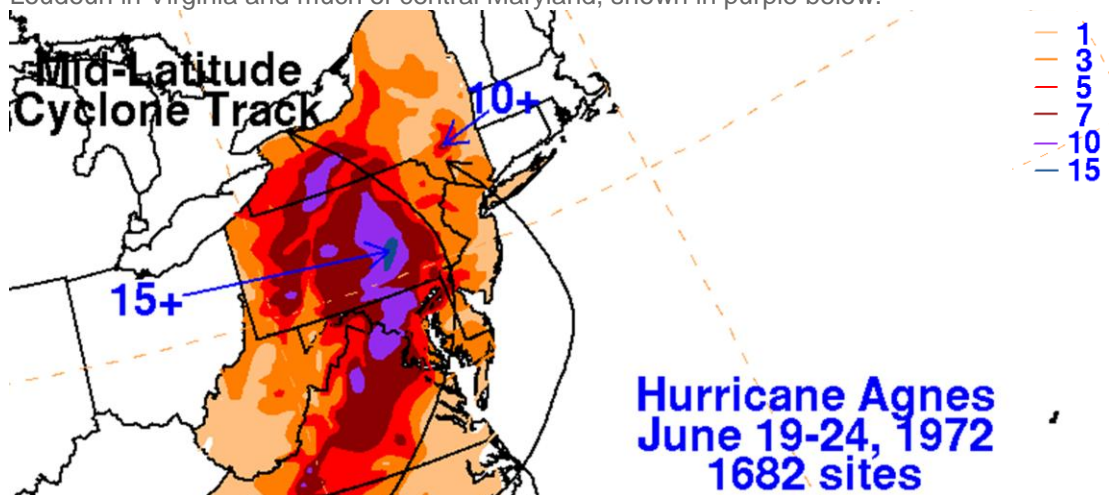


Flooding on the Patuxent River at Laurel, MD along Main Street.

Photograph by Dennis F. Gillen, U.S. Geological Survey.

Rain of ½ inch to 2 inches fell the week before Agnes. Some localized areas of Virginia and Maryland received 4 to 6 inches. Agnes had much more in store for the entire region, and the wet ground from the earlier rainfall would only serve to make the situation worse.

Torrential downpours from Wednesday (21 June) afternoon through Thursday (22 June) morning were responsible for flash flooding throughout the area. Ten inches or more fell over the counties of Madison, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Fauquier, Prince William, Fairfax, and Loudoun in Virginia and much of central Maryland, shown in purple below.



IT WASN'T JUST THE MID-ATLANTIC...

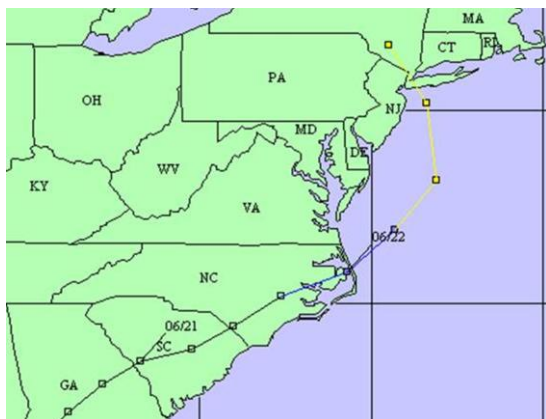
Nationwide, Agnes caused \$3.47 billion in damage (in 1972 dollars) and was, at the time, the costliest hurricane in U.S. History. More than 2/3 of the damage and 50 of the deaths occurred in Pennsylvania.

Tornadoes caused damage in Georgia and Florida; tides rose all along the Gulf Coast to the highest levels in many years. The entire state of Pennsylvania was declared a disaster area.

Freshwater runoff into the Chesapeake Bay caused losses to the shellfish and oyster industry.

569 bridges were either washed out or closed. The storm was so huge it even generated 15 foot waves on Lake Erie, flooding the coastline there!

Inland flooding was pronounced in New York as well, with water up almost to the ceiling of the Corning Glass Museum.



Above is the track of Agnes through Georgia and the Carolinas, then out to sea, before making another landfall near New York City. This storm track was favorable for spreading moisture across the mid-Atlantic region for a lengthy period.

At right is the satellite image of Agnes as it was spinning across the Northeastern United States. Note the extremely large size of the system, covering virtually the entire Great Lakes region. This large storm size led to widespread impacts and damage.

Image from NWS State College, PA

Historic Stream Crests

40 years after Agnes battered the region, crests from the storm remain among the highest ever recorded in much of the region. The table below lists those historic crests and relates them to flood stages or other known crests.

<u>Location</u>	<u>June '72 Crest</u>	<u>Records Begin</u>	<u>Notes</u> FS = Flood Stage
Highest Ever Recorded - District of Columbia			
Rock Creek at Sherrill Drive	16.20 feet	1930	FS = 7 feet
Highest Ever Recorded - Maryland			
Little Falls at Blue Mount	18.54 feet	1933	13.94 during Lee (2011)
Western Run at Western Run	26.00 feet	1945	13.26 during Lee (2011)
Baisman Run at Broadmoor	6.08 feet	1965	4.54 during Lee (2011)
Patapsco River at Hollofield	31.30 feet	1933	12.62 during Lee (2011)
Gwynns Falls at Villa Nova	21.50 feet	1956	14.49 during Lee (2011)
Jones Falls at Sorrento	18.11 feet	1958	14.08 during Lee (2011)
North Branch Patapsco River at Cedarhurst	20.75 feet	1946	10.28 during Lee (2011)
Monocacy River near Frederick	35.90 feet	1889	FS = 15 feet
Bennett Creek at Park Mills	22.10 feet	1948	FS = 11 feet
Susquehanna River at Conowingo Dam	36.83 feet	1968	FS = 23.5 feet
Little Patuxent River at Guilford	18.38 feet	1933	14.06 during Lee (2011)
Little Patuxent River at Savage	25.40 feet	1933	16.15 during Lee (2011)
Seneca Creek at Dawsonville	16.40 feet	1931	FS = 7.5 feet
NW Branch Anacostia River near Colesville	15.89 feet	1924	Only above 10 feet three times since Agnes
Patuxent River near Laurel	25.00 feet	1945	Not above 15 ft since 1975
NW Branch Anacostia River near Hyattsville	14.47 feet	1933	Only above 10 feet twice since Agnes
Sideling Hill Creek near Bellegrove	12.44 feet	1968	Nearly as high 9/18/2004
Conococheague Creek at Fairview	24.50 feet	1889	FS = 10 feet
Antietam Creek near Leitersburg	12.33 feet	1949	Last over 10 ft in 2006
Highest Ever Recorded - Virginia			
Difficult Run near Great Falls	21.40 feet	1935	17.55 during Lee (2011)
Cedar Run near Catlett	27.66 feet	1942	No > 18 ft since Agnes
Catoctin Creek at Taylorstown	23.83 feet	1971	No > 20 ft since Agnes
Goose Creek near Middleburg	27.46 feet	1966	About as high 9/23/2003
Goose Creek near Leesburg	30.59 feet	1899	FS = 12 feet
Aquia Creek near Garrisonville	16.32 feet	1972	Not above 10' since 1989
Cameron Run at Alexandria	18.14 feet	1953	~15 ft during Lee (2011)
Other Key Sites (not the highest crest on record)			
Potomac River near Paw Paw	28.83 feet	1877	Not in top 10; FS = 25
Potomac River at Point of Rocks	37.43 feet	1889	4th Highest; FS = 16
Monocacy River at Bridgeport	24.05 feet	1933	3rd Highest; FS = 16
Potomac River at Little Falls	22.03 feet	1931	4th Highest; FS = 10
Potomac River at Hancock	30.79 feet	1889	10th Highest; FS = 30
Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg	14.30 feet	1928	3rd Highest; FS = 8
Foumille Run at Alexandria	18.42 feet	1947	2nd Highest
Rapidan River near Culpeper	29.53 feet	1931	3rd Highest; FS = 13
Rappahannock River at Remington	24.82 feet	1942	2nd Highest; FS = 15
Rapidan River near Ruckersville	19.41 feet	1942	3rd Highest
SF Shenandoah River at Front Royal	23.98 feet	1900	5th Highest; FS = 12
Opequon Creek near Martinsburg	17.45 feet	1906	3rd Highest; FS = 10

